

# CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM

## FULL COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, June 8, 2009

1:30 P.M.

One Constitution Plaza

Hartford, Connecticut

## MINUTES

**Present:** Chairman Michael Price, Nicholas Bellantoni, Frank Borres, Carolyn Cicchetti, Arthur Diedrick, Philip Eliasoph, Anne Elvgren, Sandra Evoy, Bruce Fraser, Betty Hale, Helen Higgins, Greg Johnson, Renny Loisel, Larry McHugh (via phone), Paul Pozzi, Rita Schmidt, Ann E. Sheffer, Will K. Wilkins, Walter Woodward and Ted Yudain

**Absent:** Charles Bunnell, Walter Fiederowicz, Daniel Heffernan, John Hollander, Harvey Hubbell V., Herbert Jay, Fritz Jellinghaus, Ed Marcus, Ed McKeon, Guy Ortoleva, Leo Redgate, and Clem Roy

**Staff & Guests** David Bahlman, Randy Fiveash, Leigh Johnson, George Norfleet, and Karen Senich

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the full Commission was held on Monday, June 8, 2009 at the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and was called to order.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A motion made by Arthur Diedrick, second by Ted Yudain the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism to approve the minutes for the May 4, 2009 as circulated. (Y-15, N-O)*

### III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Michael Price Reporting

Chairman Price welcomed two new Commissioners to the full Commission, Frank Borres and Renny Loisel.

#### *Connecticut Open House*

The Connecticut Open House is Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. There are approximately 200 venues offering free/discounted admissions or refreshments. The list of participating venues can be found on the [www.CTvisit.com](http://www.CTvisit.com) website.

#### *Legislative Issues*

A bill has been proposed which would incorporate a 6% tax on all admissions prices to nonprofits.

### IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – Karen Senich Reporting

#### *Governor's Retirement Incentive Package*

Fourteen members of the agency's staff are eligible to take advantage of the retirement incentive package. As of today, three staff members have announced their retirement – Susan Ostrout, Frank Sypeck, and Joyce Fredericks. These positions, when vacated, will not be refilled.

#### *Governor's Budget*

The legislative session has ended without approving a budget. It is uncertain at this time if the agency will remain intact or be merged with DECD, or if certain program areas would be merged to DECD. In the governor's last proposed budget DECD's budget included CCT's budget which was zeroed out, with the

exception of salaries and operating budget.

V. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. *A motion made by Ted Yudain, second by Carolyn Cicchetti, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism approved 75 Arts Presentation grants totaling \$60,000. The grants provide funding to non-profit organizations and educational institutions that present events featuring members of the CCT's Directory of Performing Artists and Directory of Teaching Artists. (Y-15, N-O)*

B. *Commissioner Yudain reported the Arts Committee tabled the action item proposed to purchase eight (8) works of art as a concern was raised due to the current deficit of the state's budget. Discussion held.*

*A motion made by Larry McHugh, second by Anne Elvgren, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism approved to table this action item. Discussion held. (Y-12, N-1 Commissioner Evoy, Abstaining-2 Commissioners Wilkins and Borres)*

C. *A motion made by Carolyn Cicchetti, second by Rita Schmidt, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism approved nine (9) grants from the 2009 Survey and Planning Grant to: Barkhamsted Historical Society, Inc., in the amount of \$5,300 for an archaeological preserve booklet; Town of Clinton in the amount of \$20,000 for an architectural survey of Route 1 corridor; John Rogers African in the amount of \$15,750 for an American Cultural Center Heritage tourism brochure; Hartford Public Library Hog River Journal in the amount of \$7,000 for a Historic Preservation Issue Winter 2009/2010; National Trust for Historic Preservation in the amount of \$57,500 for a multiple property nomination of New Canaan National Register of Historic Places; New Canaan Preservation Alliance in the amount of \$17,000 for an architectural survey update and expansion; Town of Preston in the amount of \$20,000 for a master planning for the historic core of former Norwich State Hospital property; Trumbull Historic Society, Inc. in the amount of \$20,000 for an architectural survey of Nichols Village; Institute for American Indian Studies in the amount of \$20,000 for an archaeological survey Macricostas Preserve Washington. (Y-15, N-O)*

D. *A motion made by Arthur Diedrick, second by Paul Pozzi, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism approved two (2) Basic Operational Support Grants for Historic Preservation Non-profit Organizations from the Community Investment Act fund to New Haven Preservation Trust in the amount of \$52,400 and New London Landmarks, Inc., in the amount of \$27,508. (Y-15, N-O)*

E. *A motion made by Paul Pozzi, second by Ted Yudain, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism approved a grant award from the Community Investment Act fund for \$174,560 to the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for a two-year survey of historic barns. (Y-15, N-O)*

F. *A motion made by Carolyn Cicchetti, second by Anne Elvgren, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism approved a grant to the Town of Preston for an Endangered Building Fund grant for a predevelopment study of town-owned buildings listed on the National Historic Places on the campus of the former Norwich State Hospital in Preston in the amount of \$50,000 from the Community Investment Act fund. (Y-15, N-O)*

G. *A motion made by Paul Pozzi, second by Ted Yudain, the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism approved a Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant to the Town of Waterford to prepare an abbreviated conditions assessment for the Tahara house in the Congregation Ahavath Chesed cemetery from the Community Investment Act fund in the amount of \$2,800.00. (Y-15, N-O)*

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

***Marketing Presentation – Randy Fiveash Reporting***

A presentation was made to the full Commission on the current spring/summer marketing campaign for the state; which included the recently released Free Standing Insert (FSI), billboard advertising, and bus and rail car advertising.

***CCT's Strategic Plan – Ann Sheffer Reporting***

Ann Sheffer reported on the status of the strategic plan, the process AMS developed to gather the information used within the plan, and recommended that the draft plan be presented to the Executive Committee at their July meeting then post for public comment. Commissioners wishing to receive a copy of the draft plan were directed to contact Ann Sheffer for a copy.

**VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN** – a motion to adjourn was made, and so moved. All were in favor.

**VIII. NEXT FULL COMMISSION MEETING** –Monday, November 9, 2009, 1:30 p.m., One Constitution Plaza, main conference room. A supplemental meeting could be scheduled in September.

**Future Actions**

- None at this time.

**Tabled Items**

- Connecticut Arts Collection

Respectfully submitted by:  
Leigh Johnson, Recording Secretary